

**REMARKS**

This amendment responds to the office action dated October 19, 2001.

Claims 4, 5, and 12-22 are canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chayka et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,810,016 (hereinafter Chayka). Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of “a rigid support comprising a planar circuit board having a resistor-capacitor network”, “contact fingers . . . interconnected with said circuit board”, and “a tab proximate the ends of said plurality of contact fingers.” Chayka does not include these limitations, hence the Examiner’s rejection based upon Chayka should be withdrawn.

The applicant notes that Chayka discloses a method of fabricating a probe in which probe elements 24 are formed in a probe frame 36 where the probe elements 24 are connected to the frame 36 with tabs 38 and the distal ends of the probe elements 24 are connected with each other by tabs 96. Initially the probe frame 36 is not connected to a circuit board. Instead, the probe frame 36 is secured to an insulating member 22 and placed in a cutting tool that removes the tabs 38 are severed, thereby removing the probe elements 24 from the frame 36. Then the probe elements 24, along with the insulating member 22 are moved to another cutting tool that removes the tabs 96, separating the distal ends of the probe elements 24 from each other. Each distal end is then shaped and lapped. Only then are the probe elements 24 connected to a circuit board.

The applicant further notes that there would be no motive to connect the probe elements 24 of Chayka to a circuit board while the tabs 96 are still attached. This is because the probe is not operable until the tabs 96 are removed, and the cutting tool used to sever the tabs from the contact fingers would damage a circuit board attached to the tabs. In other words. The probe of Chayka requires that the tabs 96 of the probe elements 24 be removed prior to the attachment of a circuit board to the probe elements 24. Hence independent claim 1, which claims 1 probe card having a tab proximate the ends of contact fingers interconnected with a circuit board, is patentable over any prior art combination of Chayka with another reference, e.g. the cited Cherry reference.

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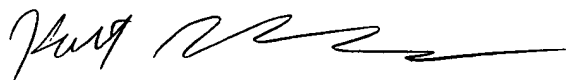
Amdt. dated March 21, 2005

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Dependent claims 2, 3, and 6-11 depend from independent claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguished over Chayka for the same reasons as is independent claim 1.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-11.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Rohlf", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Kurt Rohlf

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